

## CLAIMS

1. A sound-volume controlling method of controlling sound volume per step, the sound-volume controlling method comprising:

5        a changing step for changing a volume change amount per step; and  
          a controlling step for controlling sound volume based on changed volume change amount per step.

10 2. A sound-volume controlling method of controlling sound volume per step, the sound-volume controlling method comprising:

15        a zone specifying step for specifying a step zone in which a volume change amount per step is to be changed;  
          a changing step for changing a volume change amount per step in specified step zone; and  
          a controlling step for controlling sound volume based on changed volume change amount per step.

20 3. The sound-volume controlling method according to claim 2, wherein the changing step includes changing the volume change amount per step in the specified step zone smaller than any volume change amount per step in other than the specified step zone.

25 4. The sound-volume controlling method according to claim

2, wherein the changing step includes changing any volume change amount per step in other than the specified step zone to a same rate.

5 5. The sound-volume controlling method according to claim 2, wherein the changing step includes changing a volume change amount per step in other than the specified step zone differently in accordance with a step zone.

10 6. The sound-volume controlling method according to claim 2, wherein the zone specifying step includes specifying a total step zone; and the changing step includes changing a volume change amount per step in the total step zone.

15 7. A sound-volume controller that controls sound volume per step, the sound-volume controller comprising: a changing unit that changes a volume change amount per step; and a controlling unit that controls sound volume based on a changed volume change amount per step.

20 8. A sound-volume controller that controls sound volume per step, the sound-volume controller comprising: a zone specifying unit that specifies a step zone in

which a volume change amount per step is to be changed;  
a changing unit that changes a volume change amount  
per step in specified step zone; and  
a controlling unit that controls sound volume based on  
changed volume change amount per step.

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9. The sound-volume controller according to any one of  
claims 7 and 8, further comprising a storage unit that  
stores therein a pattern of the volume change amount per  
10 step, wherein  
the changing unit changes the volume change amount per  
step based on the pattern present in the storage unit

10. Electronic equipment comprising the sound-volume  
controller according to any one of claims 7 to 9.

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11. A computer program for controlling sound volume that  
causes a computer to execute a method of controlling sound  
volume per step, the computer program causing the computer  
20 to execute:  
a changing step for changing a volume change amount  
per step; and  
a controlling step for controlling sound volume based  
on changed volume change amount per step.

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12. A computer program of controlling sound volume that

causes a computer to execute a method of controlling sound volume per step, the computer program causing the computer to execute:

- a zone specifying step for specifying a step zone in which a volume change amount per step is to be changed;
- a changing step for changing a volume change amount per step in specified step zone; and
- a controlling step for controlling sound volume based on changed volume change amount per step.